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(54) **FUNCTION BINDING AND SELECTION IN A NETWORK**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

It is provided a method, comprising configuring one or more instances of a first downstream network function (e.g. MME) such that each time when a first downstream transaction (e.g. a session establishment message) is requested from any of the one or more instances of the first downstream network function the respective instance of the first downstream network function requests a second downstream transaction from an instance of a predetermined group of one or more instances of a second downstream network function (e.g. a PCRF) to complete the first downstream transaction request; and prohibiting an apparatus performing the method from configuring the one or more instances of the first downstream network function such that any of the one or more instances of the first downstream network functions requests the second downstream transaction from an instance of the second downstream network function not belonging to the predetermined group. The method is applied in IMS and the evolved packet core.